

Agency 461

Department of Ecology**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	1,395.6	72,261	252,807	325,068
Total Maintenance Level	1,465.2	78,543	285,292	363,835
Difference	69.6	6,282	32,485	38,767
Percent Change from Current Biennium	5.0%	8.7%	12.8%	11.9%
Performance Changes				
Columbia River Initiative	6.0	1,440		1,440
Oil Spill Early Action and Prevention			2,000	2,000
Initiative 297 Implementation	7.5		4,879	4,879
U.S. v Washington (Culverts) Lawsuit		47		47
Roadless Areas Environmental Review	1.0	400		400
Washington Federation of State Employees Cost of Living Adjustment/Salary Survey		2,056	5,996	8,052
Super Coalition Health Benefits		922	2,508	3,430
Classification Revisions		4	89	93
Performance Pay		114	240	354
Nonrepresented Employees Cost of Living Adjustment		458	962	1,420
Nonrepresented Employees Health Benefit Change		106	234	340
Pension Method Change		(1,186)	(3,202)	(4,388)
Nonrepresented Salary Survey Implementation		134	98	232
General Inflation		(471)	(442)	(913)
Sustain Water Activities				
Statewide Streamflow Gauging	3.0	556	740	1,296
Enhance Well Construction Program*	2.0		361	361
Municipal Stormwater Permit	7.5		1,460	1,460
Water Quality Certifications	3.0	609		609
Beyond Waste and Business Assistance	11.0		3,350	3,350
Community Right to Know Fund Shift				
Reduce PBTs In the Environment	5.0		1,403	1,403
Clean Up Toxic Sites			5,000	5,000
Enhance Voluntary Cleanups	3.0		270	270
Continue Marine Sediment Monitoring				
Subtotal	48.9	5,189	25,946	31,135
Total Proposed Budget	1,514.1	83,732	311,238	394,970
Difference	118.5	11,471	58,431	69,902
Percent Change from Current Biennium	8.5%	15.9%	23.1%	21.5%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Adjudicate Water Rights	9.3	2,644		2,644
Administration	231.0	11,628	31,077	42,705
Assess, Set, and Achieve Instream Flows	15.8	2,082	764	2,846
Clean the Worst Contaminated Sites First (Aquatic)	86.1		22,292	22,292

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Clean the Worst Contaminated Sites First (Uplands)	17.4		6,024	6,024
Clean Up Polluted Waters	37.4	1,427	4,786	6,213
Conduct Environmental Studies for Pollution Source Identification and Control	43.4	1,405	7,615	9,020
Control Stormwater Pollution	46.5	670	8,037	8,707
Eliminating Wastes and Managing the Left Over Garbage	53.5	45	8,436	8,481
Employing Washington Students to Prevent and Pick Up Litter	10.4		9,494	9,494
Ensure Dam Safety	8.0	1,724	2	1,726
Ensure Environmental Laboratories Provide Quality Data	7.7	1,406		1,406
Funding Local Efforts to Clean Up Toxic Sites and Manage or Reduce Waste	11.0		2,606	2,606
Hanford Environmental Restoration	13.2		2,689	2,689
Hanford Facility Transition Project	7.0	27	1,256	1,283
Hanford Tank Waste Disposal Project	22.7	11	4,098	4,109
Hanford Tank Waste Storage Project	11.9	23	2,129	2,152
Hanford Waste Management Project	26.6	10	8,692	8,702
Improve Community Access to Hazardous Waste Information/Quality Data	29.0		3,758	3,758
Improve Quality of Data Used for Environmental Decision Making	4.6	392	530	922
Increase Compliance and Act on Environmental Threats from Hazardous Waste	20.0		3,034	3,034
Increase Safe Hazardous Waste Management Through Technical Assistance	21.0		4,356	4,356
Manage Underground Storage Tanks to Minimize Releases	23.5		4,703	4,703
Manage Water Rights	66.6	11,287	5,528	16,815
Measure Air Pollution Levels and Emissions	25.0	5,021	1,712	6,733
Measure Contaminants in the Environment by Performing Laboratory Analyses	26.3	1,273	1,700	2,973
Monitor the Quality of State Waters and Measure Stream Flows Statewide	43.7	4,598	5,037	9,635
Partnering with the 31 Largest Industrial Facilities to Limit the Impact on Citizens/Environment	21.0	216	3,443	3,659
Prepare and Respond to Drought and Climate Change	.4		881	881
Prepare for Spill Response through Planning and Drills	12.0		1,864	1,864
Prevent Hazardous Waste Pollution Through Permitting, Closure, and Corrective Action	16.0		3,028	3,028
Prevent Point Source Water Pollution	100.4	1,769	17,983	19,752
Prevent Spills from Vessels and Oil Handling Facilities	19.1		9,157	9,157
Prevent Violations of Air Quality Standards	13.8	5,093	4,137	9,230
Promote Compliance with Water Laws	7.8	1,270		1,270
Protect and Manage Shorelines in Partnership with Local Governments	41.9	9,067	5,568	14,635
Protect Water Quality by Reviewing and Conditioning Projects	10.7	654	3,031	3,685
Protect, Restore, and Manage Wetlands	17.1	1,530	2,963	4,493
Provide Technical and Financial Assistance for Local Watershed Planning	16.2	468	14,489	14,957
Provide Technical and Financial Assistance to Local Governments to Reduce Flood Hazards	6.4		4,329	4,329
Provide Technical Assistance on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review	2.6	350	4,936	5,286

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Provide Technical Training, Education, and Research through Padilla Bay Estuarine Reserve	12.9	1,256	3,490	4,746
Provide Water Quality Financial Assistance	28.4		12,972	12,972
Provide Water Resources Data and Information	21.0	1,727	1,961	3,688
Reduce Air Pollution from Industrial and Commercial Sources	15.0		1,035	1,035
Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Motor Vehicle Emissions	28.0	4,448	10,261	14,709
Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Smoke and Dust	12.0	732	1,411	2,143
Reduce Nonpoint-Source Water Pollution	22.2	2,165	1,731	3,896
Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in the Environment	5.6		1,451	1,451
Reduce Risk from Toxic Air Pollutants	9.0	1,400	2,308	3,708
Reduce the Generation of Hazardous Waste through Technical Assistance	37.2		8,506	8,506
Regulate Well Construction	7.5		1,072	1,072
Respond to and Clean Up Oil and Hazardous Material Spills	33.7		14,408	14,408
Restore Environmental Damage Caused by Oil Spills	2.3		2,189	2,189
Restore Watersheds by Supporting Community-Based Projects with the Washington Conservation Corps	26.0		3,702	3,702
Services to Site Owners that Volunteer to Clean Up their Contaminated Sites	18.4		2,974	2,974
Streamline Environmental Permit Review for Major Transportation Projects and Large Complex Projects	15.0			
Support Local Watershed Management of Water Resources	8.8	1,377	310	1,687
Support Water Use Efficiency	7.2	359	4,119	4,478
Compensation Cost Adjustment		4,178	11,174	15,352
Total Proposed Budget	1,514.1	83,732	311,238	394,970

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Columbia River Initiative

The objectives of the Columbia River Initiative are to meet the water needs of growing communities and their rural economies along the main stem of the Columbia River, and to do so in a manner that reduces the risk to fish resulting from water withdrawals. As part of a new agency rule for management of the Columbia River main stem, a new 'water bank' will be developed to manage water acquisitions and mitigation agreements. New drought permits will be processed, a two-year sampling protocol for resident fish species in Lake Roosevelt will be initiated, and two water master's will ensure that water use is properly authorized, metered, reported, and that permit conditions are met.

Oil Spill Early Action and Prevention

In response to the October 14, 2004, Dalco Passage Puget Sound oil spill, Governor Locke created the Oil Spill Early Action Task Force to explore possible improvements to prepare and respond to oil spills. The Governor's Citizen Volunteer Program and Oil Spill Task Force recommendations will be finalized in December 2004. Funding is provided to implement these recommendations. (Oil Spill Prevention Account)

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Initiative 297 Implementation

The Cleanup Priority Act (Initiative 297) was passed by voters in November 2004. The act affects agency efforts concerning waste disposal and cleanup at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. It requires the Department of Ecology to order cessation of radioactive waste disposal in unlined trenches, implement additional permitting requirements, establish enhanced public participation and a public participation grant program, and adopt additional cleanup standards for radioactive wastes. These new requirements will be funded by increased hazardous waste fees billed to the Department of Energy and hazardous waste disposal fees. (Site Closure Account, State Toxics Control Account)

U.S. v Washington (Culverts) Lawsuit

One-time funding is provided for Assistant Attorney General staff support for the U.S. vs Washington State (Culverts Case). The court has framed the issue as whether the state is "affirmatively diminishing the number of fish available for harvest" by "build[ing] and manag[ing] its roadway culverts in a fashion that impermissibly blocks the passage of fish destined for the Tribes' usual and accustomed fishing ground." Agencies involved in the case include the departments of Transportation, Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Roadless Areas Environmental Review

The U.S. Forest Service is proposing rules that require environmental reviews to support requests by the Governor to establish management requirements for National Forest lands roadless areas. The Department of Ecology will continue coordinating the completion of these environmental reviews, along with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources, for over two million acres of roadless areas in the state across nine National Forests. No action by the state would mean these roadless areas would lose their current protected status and potentially revert to some other kind of active management, which could impair water quality in the state.

Sustain Water Activities

In the 2003-05 Biennium, Ecology is utilizing \$680,000 from the State Drought Preparedness Account (SDPA) and \$268,000 from the State and Local Improvements Revolving Account-Water Supply Facilities (Referendum 38) for water acquisition and water conservation. These funds were one-time in nature and are not sustainable beyond the 2003-05 Biennium. However, these activities continue to be critically important for supporting local watershed planning efforts and for achieving and restoring stream flows, while assuring adequate water supplies for people and farms. To continue this current level of effort, the Water Quality Account is being utilized, and the SDPA and Referendum 38 accounts will be reduced by \$680,000 and \$268,000, respectively. (Water Quality Account, State Drought Preparedness Account, State and Local Improvements Revolving Account)

Statewide Streamflow Gauging

Streamflow monitoring is critically important to support programs designed to achieve, restore, and protect water supplies for people, fish, and farms. In addition, this activity also is important for supporting local watershed planning efforts. The Department of Ecology's stream gauging network is funded primarily by federal grants which expire in the 2003-05 Biennium, and from the State Drought Preparedness Account which was a one-time fund source. To continue to support the existing stream gauging network, \$1.5 million of Water Quality Account funding will be utilized in the 2005-07 Biennium. In addition, to begin to meet new streamflow gauging requests from watershed planning groups, 10 new gauges per year will be installed in high-priority watersheds. Watershed planning groups have requested the installation of 55 new gauges. (General-Fund State, Water Quality Account)

Enhance Well Construction Program*

Ecology and local health departments regulate well construction and decommissioning to ensure proper construction and to protect and manage groundwater resources. The current fee system does not completely cover costs, has not been adjusted since its authorization in 1993, and allows only 30 percent of new wells to be inspected. The Department of Ecology (DOE) is pursuing the statutory and rule changes necessary to increase fees and provide improved customer service. The additional revenue will be used to assist local governments that accept delegation of well inspections, increase inspection rates on new wells, and improve well construction data systems. (Reclamation Revolving Account)

Municipal Stormwater Permit

The federal Clean Water Act requires certain industries and municipalities to have water quality discharge permits to discharge stormwater. Municipal stormwater permits require the implementation of a Stormwater Management program to reduce the discharge of pollutants, reduce impacts to receiving waters, eliminate illicit discharges, and make progress toward compliance with surface water, ground water, and sediment standards. Regulations under the act establish a two-part system for implementing municipal stormwater permits: larger municipalities were covered and issued in Phase I; smaller jurisdictions were addressed under Phase II. Ecology is now required to issue Phase II permits for over 100 municipalities, and will charge fees to fully implement this program. (Water Quality Permit Fee Account)

Water Quality Certifications

Projects proposed to be built in wetlands or in water bodies of water must meet state water quality standards and other aquatic protection regulations. Projects that result in a discharge to these waters and need a federal permit, must also meet Section 401 requirements of the Clean Water Act which require that these permits first receive state certification ensuring that the proposed projects meet state standards. As part of Ecology's overall permit streamlining and regulatory reform efforts, a pilot program for processing 401 water quality certification projects using re-assigned staff was initiated in one regional office. This pilot improved permit processing accountability and timelines, and resulted in 90 percent of routine certifications occurring within 90 days of application, and acknowledgement of receipt of the application being sent within 10 days (known as the "90-90-10" pilot). Two additional regional permit processors and one program coordinator will expand the 90-90-10 pilot statewide and make these process and timeline improvements permanent.

Beyond Waste and Business Assistance

State law mandates that the Department of Ecology develop and update statewide plans for hazardous-waste and solid-waste management. Working closely with local governments and other stakeholders, the agency updated both of these plans into an integrated "Beyond Waste" plan. The new plan provides additional emphasis on waste and pollution prevention, rather than cleanup. Staff will work with businesses to reduce key wastes, increase organic composting, coordinate 'Green Building' practices, enhance effectiveness of existing data collecting methods and track performance indicators, implement a financial and regulatory incentives program, and improve pollution prevention plans. In addition, outside contractors will analyze the feasibility of funding less toxic business technologies and help determine which major indicators should be used to track the effectiveness of the Beyond Waste program. (Waste Reduction/Recycle/Litter Control Account, State Toxics Control Account, Hazardous Waste Assistance Account)

Community Right to Know Fund Shift

During the 1999-01 Biennium, historical volatility and a revenue shortage in the State Toxics Control Account (STCA) resulted in some Department of Ecology (Ecology) hazardous waste community education, information, and data management work being shifted to the Worker and Community Right To Know Account (WCRTKA). The WCRTKA fund balance has been completely utilized and a shortfall is projected in this account for the 2005-07 Biennium. Ecology will maintain its current service level of providing hazardous chemical information to communities, citizens, and emergency responders, resulting in less human health exposures and environmental contamination. (State Toxics Control Account, Worker and Community Right To Know Account)

Reduce PBTs In the Environment

Persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs) are particular toxic chemical elements and compounds that are persistent in the environment (resist chemical break-down), can move through the food chain, and accumulate in the tissue of humans and many animals. These toxins pose a serious health risk to humans and animals. As directed by the Legislature, in December 2000 the Department of Ecology completed and submitted a proposed strategy to reduce PBTs in Washington State. The department will implement a proposed Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE) chemical action plan, monitor for mercury in fish, and continue implementing the overall PBT strategy. (State Toxics Control Account)

Clean Up Toxic Sites

Cleaning up pollution is one of the principle charges of Ecology and one of its three primary goals. Demand for the cleanup of recalcitrant or orphan contaminated sites that present threats to human health and the environment continues to outpace available funding. Due to the historical volatility of revenue that supports the State Toxics Control Account (STCA), the Department of Ecology adopted a strategy of using revenue spikes to fund one-time cleanups, while maintaining core activities funded out of this account. Additional clean-ups will be completed for high priority toxic sites. (State Toxics Control Account)

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Enhance Voluntary Cleanups

The Department of Ecology conducts the cleanup of toxic waste sites through the Voluntary Cleanup program and formal administrative oversight of responsible parties, via administrative and enforcement mechanisms. By sheer number, most of the cleanups in the state are conducted through the Voluntary Cleanup program, and the agency recovers approximately 40 percent of its costs for these voluntary cleanups from the entity initiating the cleanup. Ecology will coordinate the clean-up of 25 additional toxics sites with voluntary contaminated site owners. (State Toxics Control Account)

Continue Marine Sediment Monitoring

The Department of Ecology conducts environmental monitoring on air, water, and soil resources. This data informs a wide range of environmental, public health, and local land-use decisions. For the past several biennia, the agency has utilized federal funding sources to maintain a network for monitoring marine sediments. These resources have declined over time and will be eliminated at the end of the 2003-05 Biennium. This data is needed to: identify locations that exceed health standards; mitigate public health and environmental threats; determine changes over time; measure the effectiveness of cleanup and prevention work; and provide data for fish consumption and other public health advisories. (State Toxics Control Account)

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Adjudicate Water Rights

Adjudicating water rights brings certainty to water rights and is fundamental to sound water management and reducing conflicts over water. It is a judicial determination of existing water rights and water right claims, including federal, tribal, and non-tribal claims, to determine their validity and extent. The primary activity is supporting the Yakima River Basin adjudication. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.03.110)

Administration

The administration activity supports agency functions by providing leadership, cross-program support, and staff presence throughout the state. Administration manages the agency's long-term financial health and provides information to support sound decision-making and resource management by managers. Communication, education, and outreach tools play a major role in protecting and improving the environment. Administration staff serve as liaisons to Congress, the state Legislature, local governments, businesses, Indian tribes, and environmental and citizen groups. Administration helps managers and employees create a safe, supportive, and diverse work environment by providing comprehensive human resource services. It also oversees information management (desktop and network services, application development, and data administration) and facility and vehicle management; maintains the agency's centralized records and library resources; responds to public records requests; and provides mail services.

Assess, Set, and Achieve Instream Flows

The agency evaluates and sets instream flows which is fundamental to water resources management. It is used to determine how much water needs to remain in streams to meet environmental needs, how much water can be allocated, and when to regulate water use based on flow levels. This includes acquiring water and other management techniques to restore and protect flows while meeting out-of-stream needs. This activity receives Bonneville Power and Salmon Recovery funds (and related staff) not reflected in the appropriated budget totals. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.22)

Clean the Worst Contaminated Sites First (Aquatic)

The agency protects public health and natural resources by cleaning up and managing contaminated sediments in the aquatic environment. This includes addressing the environmental health of aquatic sediments in source control permits, managing sediment standards and regulations, and maintaining a sediment information database. The agency also manages multi-agency sediment cleanup projects. The cleanup of contaminated aquatic sediments reduces toxic contamination in food fish and protects the aquatic environment. (Authorizing laws: Model Toxics Control Act-RCW 70.105D, Water Pollution Control Act-RCW 90.48, and Puget Sound Water Quality Protection-RCW 90.71)

Clean the Worst Contaminated Sites First (Uplands)

The agency protects public health and natural resources by cleaning up and managing contaminated sites. Resources are first focused on cleaning up contaminated sites that pose the greatest risk to public health and the environment. These include sites where contamination threatens drinking water, exists in a large quantity, is very toxic, may affect a water body, or may affect people that are living, working, or recreating near the site. Contamination may be in the soil, sediments, underground water, air, drinking water, and/or surface water. The cleanup of these sites protects public health, safeguards the environment, and promotes local economic development by making land available for new industries and other beneficial uses. (Authorizing laws: Model Toxics Control Act-RCW 70.105D, Water Pollution Control Act-RCW 90.48, and Puget Sound Water Quality Protection-RCW 90.71)

Clean Up Polluted Waters

The federal Clean Water Act requires the agency to develop water quality standards and to identify water bodies that fail to meet those standards. The agency does this by reviewing thousands of water quality data samples and publishing an integrated water quality assessment report listing the water bodies that do not meet standards. The agency then works with local interests to prepare clean-up plans to reduce pollution, establish conditions in discharge permits and nonpoint-source management plans, and monitor the effectiveness of the clean-up plan. (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Water Act, state Water Pollution Control Act, state Dairy Nutrient Management Act, state Forest Practices Act, state Water Resources Act)

Conduct Environmental Studies for Pollution Source Identification and Control

The agency conducts pollution studies to address known or suspected problems at individual sites or across regional areas. These studies support agency efforts under the federal Clean Water Act, Water Pollution Control Act, and Model Toxics Control Act. The directed studies range from water quality sampling, such as for bacteria or dissolved oxygen, to more complex analyses for toxic chemicals, such as dioxins in fish tissues or pesticides in groundwater. Many of the studies are water clean-up studies, which calculate the total maximum daily load (TMDL) of a pollutant a water body can absorb without causing violations of water quality standards. As part of a lawsuit settlement, the agency entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency that requires the agency to develop nearly 1,500 TMDLs by 2013. Study results are published in scientific reports used for regulatory decision-making, policy development, and environmental health protection.

Control Stormwater Pollution

The agency prepares tools, provides assistance, and offers compliance strategies to control the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff from development and industrial activities. The agency is currently providing training and assistance to communities and industries on the Western Washington Stormwater Manual, and is developing an Eastern Washington Stormwater Manual. The agency also is working with local governments and other stakeholders to develop a municipal stormwater program and permitting system. (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Water Act, state Water Pollution Control Act)

Eliminating Wastes and Managing the Left Over Garbage

Waste reduction and recycling conserves resources and saves money in both the public and private sectors. The agency is working on revisions to the state plan to provide a 20-year vision for solid waste; technical assistance on pollution prevention strategies; assistance in establishing and operating local recycling programs; better management of building materials (new and waste); and development of an organic waste strategy. (Authorizing laws: Waste Not Washington Act; Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Act)

Employing Washington Students to Prevent and Pick Up Litter

Litter control efforts include a litter prevention campaign, Ecology Youth Corps litter pick-up crews, and coordination with other state and local efforts to maximize litter pick-up. In the 2003-05 Biennium, the agency looked at ways to outsource much of the staff devoted to this activity, while retaining the effectiveness of the program. Litter prevention and pick-up helps to keep Washington green, supports tourism, and provides employment opportunities to youth. (Authorizing laws: Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Act)

Ensure Dam Safety

This activity protects life, property, and the environment by overseeing the safety of Washington's dams. This includes inspecting the structural integrity and flood and earthquake safety of existing state dams not managed by the federal

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government; approving and inspecting new dam construction and repairs; and taking compliance and emergency actions. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.03.350)

Ensure Environmental Laboratories Provide Quality Data

The agency is charged with the responsibility to certify laboratories that conduct tests or submit data to the agency. As a result, Ecology developed and manages a program to accredit environmental laboratories for analyses in all typical environmental matrices, now including drinking water. The drinking water mission was transferred to Ecology under an April 2002 Memorandum of Agreement between Ecology and the Department of Health. Accreditation helps ensure that environmental laboratories have the demonstrated capability to provide accurate and defensible data. The agency's laboratory accreditation program is the primary source of lab performance monitoring for the 480 labs in the accreditation program. (Authorizing laws: RCW 43.21A.445 and RCW 70.119A.080)

Funding Local Efforts to Clean Up Toxic Sites and Manage or Reduce Waste

The agency supports local waste reduction, recycling, site cleanup, and litter pick-up activities through the administration of four capital grant programs, including Coordinated Prevention Grants (CPG), Remedial Action Grants, Public Participation Grants, and Litter Pick-up Contracts. These grant programs allow the agency to leverage local efforts to get additional resources for high priority cleanups, waste management, and local planning. (Authorizing laws: Model Toxics Control Act; Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Act)

Hanford Environmental Restoration

The agency protects public health and natural resources by working to restore the public use of air, soil, and water at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation by cleaning up contaminated sites from past activities. Radioactive and hazardous contaminants are removed, residual contaminants are contained and monitored, and mitigation of natural resource damage on Hanford occurs. (Primary authorizing rules and statutes: WAC 173-340, RCW 70.105D, and federal CERCLA 40 CFR 300)

Hanford Facility Transition Project

The agency works on decommissioning the large, complex, and high-risk facilities throughout the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, including nuclear reactors and chemical processing facilities used for nuclear weapons material production. Transition of these facilities to safe and stable conditions requires coordination of multiple regulatory and technical requirements. Additionally, the project is responsible for regulatory oversight of three active operating facilities not on the Hanford site. (Primary authorizing rules and statutes: WAC 173-303 and RCW 70.105)

Hanford Tank Waste Disposal Project

The agency protects public health and natural resources by providing regulatory oversight for the treatment and removal of highly radioactive tank waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. This activity is focused on the design, permitting, construction, and operation of the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant. (Primary authorizing rules and statutes: WAC 173-303 and RCW 70.105)

Hanford Tank Waste Storage Project

The agency protects public health and natural resources by ensuring the safe storage and management of 53 million gallons of high-level radioactive tank waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The Hanford Tank Waste Project is focused on permitting the double-shelled tank waste storage system, removing liquid wastes from the single-shelled tanks, and beginning to close portions of the tank waste storage system. In coordination with the Hanford Tank Waste Disposal Project, the tank waste will be removed and treated, leading to eventual closure of all 177 Hanford tanks by 2028. (Primary authorizing rules and statutes: WAC 173-303 and RCW 70.105)

Hanford Waste Management Project

The agency provides regulatory oversight for the safe storage, treatment, and disposal of liquid and solid dangerous and radioactive mixed wastes at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, as well as at radioactive mixed-waste sites throughout the state. This activity regulates the management of this historic and ongoing waste stream, and ensures the retrieval, treatment, and safe disposal of high-risk transuranic and high activity wastes currently buried in shallow, unlined trenches. (Primary authorizing rules and statutes: WAC 173-303 and RCW 70.105)

Improve Community Access to Hazardous Waste Information/Quality Data

The agency uses automated data systems to track compliance and technical assistance visits; measure pollution prevention and compliance progress; track amounts of dangerous waste generated each year and its proper transport, treatment, and/or disposal; identify toxic chemicals released and stored by businesses; and track information on facilities that prepare pollution prevention plans and pay fees. It provides the agency, the public, and local governments with accurate information about the type, location, and source of hazardous substances that affect them. In accordance with federal and state Community Right-to-Know laws, the agency also responds to public inquiries about toxic chemicals and provides a website for this purpose. (Authorizing laws: state Worker and Community Right-to-Know Act-RCW 49.70, Hazardous Substance Information Act-RCW 70.102, Hazardous Waste Fees-RCW 70.95E, Hazardous Waste Fee Regulations-WAC 173-305, Pollution Prevention Plans-WAC 173-307, federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act)

Improve Quality of Data Used for Environmental Decision Making

Sound environmental policy and regulatory decisions can only be made if accurate and timely data is available. To ensure the reliability and integrity of data used by the agency, staff provide guidance and training on developing quality assurance project plans, review project proposals, and consult on sampling design requirements and interpretation of results. This quality assurance function is required by the Environmental Protection Agency for entities, such as the Department of Ecology, which receive funding for work involving environmental data. In addition, agency scientists, modelers, statisticians, chemists, and other specialists interpret technical data, review grantee monitoring plans, and supply information for policy decisions, in support of agency mandates.

Increase Compliance and Act on Environmental Threats from Hazardous Waste

The agency annually conducts formal compliance enforcement inspections at large and medium quantity generators and hazardous waste management facilities to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. A credible, formal enforcement capability is essential to preserving the effectiveness of technical assistance and informal enforcement efforts. While staff undertake formal enforcement infrequently, repeated refusal or inability of a facility to correct violations and come into compliance with the regulations will escalate to formal enforcement actions. (Authorizing law: State Hazardous Waste Management Act-RCW 70.105)

Increase Safe Hazardous Waste Management Through Technical Assistance

Ecology provides education and technical assistance to thousands of businesses on safe hazardous waste management. Although formal enforcement work is essential to maintaining compliance with hazardous waste regulations, workshops and technical assistance visits also can help bring facilities into regulatory compliance using substantially fewer resources. Safe management of hazardous waste protects the public and the environment, and enables the state to avoid significant clean-up costs. (Authorizing law: state Hazardous Waste Management Act-RCW 70.105)

Manage Underground Storage Tanks to Minimize Releases

The agency currently regulates about 11,189 active tanks on 4,074 different properties, including gas stations, industries, commercial properties, and governmental entities. This includes working to ensure that tanks are installed, managed, and monitored in accordance with federal standards and in a manner that prevents releases into the environment. This is done through compliance inspections and providing technical assistance to tank owners and operators. Properly managing such tanks saves millions in cleanup costs and prevents contamination of limited drinking water and other groundwater resources. (Authorizing law: Underground Storage Tanks-RCW 90.76)

Manage Water Rights

The agency allocates water by reviewing applications for new water rights and changes to existing water rights. It determines whether water is available, whether existing rights would be impaired, and other considerations. The goal is to continue the increased pace of water rights processing as a result of increased funding and flexibility authorized by the 2001 Legislature. It also includes work to implement new municipal water right provisions with the Department of Health and administering the current portfolio of existing water rights. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.03)

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Measure Air Pollution Levels and Emissions

To make reasoned air quality management decisions, the agency needs reliable information on the amount and sources of pollution and how it moves in the air. To collect needed data, the agency uses three primary activities: air quality monitoring (assessment of trends, focused compliance, and assessment of control strategies, health effects, and environmental damage); emission inventory development (quantification of pollution released by sources of air pollution); and meteorological and dispersion modeling forecasts (the movement and concentration of air pollutants, the carrying capacity of airsheds, the interactions of pollutants, and the point of maximum impact of pollution). (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Air Act RCW 70.94 and Washington Clean Air Act)

Measure Contaminants in the Environment by Performing Laboratory Analyses

The Manchester Environmental Laboratory is a full-service environmental chemistry laboratory operated jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Ecology. The laboratory provides technical, analytical, and sampling support for chemistry and microbiology for multiple programs in the agency, and supports work conducted under mandates such as the federal Clean Water Act, Water Pollution Control Act, Puget Sound Water Quality Protection Act, and Model Toxics Control Act.

Monitor the Quality of State Waters and Measure Stream Flows Statewide

The agency has established a statewide environmental monitoring network to assess the current status of state waters, identify threatened or impaired waters, and evaluate changes/trends in water quality over time. This network includes sampling stations in rivers, streams, and marine waters (Puget Sound and coastal estuaries). The agency also measures and evaluates stream flows in salmon-critical basins and key watersheds statewide, and makes near real-time information available to the public via the agency's website.

Partnering with the 31 Largest Industrial Facilities to Limit the Impact on Citizens/Environment

The agency provides a single point of contact for these major facilities. Rather than having multiple inspectors work on the many environmental issues at a plant, one engineer provides coverage for all media. This means more balanced regulation for these major industries, which include petroleum refineries, pulp and paper mills, and aluminum smelters.

Prepare and Respond to Drought and Climate Change

Agency staff provide services to mitigate the effects of droughts and to prepare for future droughts and climate change. This includes the provision of information and financial assistance and the coordination of drought response efforts. When droughts are declared, services include provision of water via emergency transfers, changes, and temporary wells. Emerging information on climate change is also monitored for future potential action. (Authorizing law: RCW 43.83.B)

Prepare for Spill Response through Planning and Drills

Operators of large commercial vessels and oil handling facilities are required to maintain state-approved oil spill contingency plans to help ensure that they can rapidly and effectively respond to a major oil spill. Once staff have reviewed and approved an oil spill contingency plan, the plan holders and spill response contractors maintain their readiness through required spill drills. The agency also partners with the U.S. Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency to maintain a single, overarching policy on how spills are managed in the Northwest. Staff work with other agencies and private sector spill response experts to develop geographic-based response plans. The plans identify and rank response strategies that best protect natural resources, drinking-water supply intakes, marinas, sensitive archeological sites, and commercial shellfish beds. These plans work in concert with private sector contingency plans to enable spill cleanup contractors to immediately start response actions with minimal initial consultation. (Authorizing laws: RCW 90.56, 88.46, and 88.40)

Prevent Hazardous Waste Pollution Through Permitting, Closure, and Corrective Action

Facilities that treat, store, and/or dispose of dangerous wastes are required to obtain a permit to ensure that their design, construction, maintenance, and operating procedures protect public health and the environment. Washington currently has 15 active facilities that are either in "interim status" or have a final permit. These facilities are required to have closure plans to effectively deal with the end of their waste management activities. Environmental contamination found at any time before closure requires a corrective action clean-up plan. The agency is currently working on 27 high-priority corrective action clean-up sites. (Authorizing laws: state Hazardous Waste Management Act-RCW 70.105, state Hazardous Waste Cleanup-RCW 70.105D, and federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act)

Prevent Point Source Water Pollution

The agency protects Washington's water by regulating point source discharges of pollutants to surface and ground waters. This is done with a wastewater permit program for sewage treatment plants and an industrial discharge program for other industries. A permit is a rigorous set of limits, monitoring requirements, or management practices, usually specific to a discharge, which is designed to ensure that a facility can meet treatment standards and water quality limits. The permit is followed by regular inspections and site visits. Technical assistance and follow-up on permit violations also are provided through various means. (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Water Act, state Water Pollution Control Act, state Reclaimed Water Use Act, and state Model Toxics Control Act)

Prevent Spills from Vessels and Oil Handling Facilities

To minimize the environmental threat of oil and chemical spills from vessels and oil-handling facilities, the agency works with the regulated community to carry out four core activities: Vessel Screening, Inspection, and Oil Transfer Oversight; Oil Handling Facilities; Neah Bay Rescue Tug; and Incident Investigations. This involves monitoring 2,600 cargo and passenger vessels, with 1,000 inspections per year; inspection of refueling operations to reduce spill frequency; review and approval of 35 oil facilities' oil spill prevention plans and operation manuals; rescue tug operations capable of controlling drifting oil tankers or cargo ships in rugged waters; and investigation of near-miss and actual accidents to identify prevention strategies. (Authorizing laws: RCW 90.56 and 88.46)

Prevent Violations of Air Quality Standards

Federal law establishes healthy air standards for six air pollutants known as criteria pollutants. Violations of standards trigger costly regulatory actions against businesses and consumers, result in economic constraints, and create the potential for severe financial sanctions against the state if problem areas are not cleaned up in a timely manner. To ensure federal standards are met, the agency continuously measures air pollution levels and trends, develops and implements area specific clean-up plans, designs and implements strategies to prevent violations, and develops and implements action plans in natural events, such as wildfires and windblown dust. The agency's goals are to have all dirty-air areas, known as nonattainment areas, classified as clean by the Environmental Protection Agency by the end of the biennium, and to reduce ambient air pollutant concentrations to levels that ensure future violations of health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards will not occur. (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Air Act RCW 70.94, Washington Clean Air Act RCW 70.120, Motor Vehicle Emissions Control Act)

Promote Compliance with Water Laws

The agency helps ensure that water users comply with the state's water laws so that other legal water users are not impaired; water use remains sustainable over the long term; and the environment is protected for the benefit of people and nature. Activities include water metering and reporting 80 percent of water use in 16 fish critical basins, along with education, technical assistance, and strategic enforcement in egregious cases. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.03.400)

Protect and Manage Shorelines in Partnership with Local Governments

The Shoreline Management Act establishes a cooperative program between local and state governments, in which local governments develop and administer local Shoreline Master Programs, and Ecology provides support and oversight. The agency is involved in shoreline management in four primary ways: developing guidelines for local shoreline programs; providing technical assistance to local governments and applicants on shoreline planning and permitting activities; reviewing and approving amendments to local shoreline master programs; and reviewing permits to ensure resource protection and implementation of the law. Ecology works with local governments on permit compliance by responding to public inquiries and complaints, making field visits, providing compliance-related technical assistance, and issuing notices of correction, orders, and penalties. Properly managed shorelines provide habitat for fish and wildlife, minimize flooding and property damage, and provide land-use certainty to local landowners. (Authorizing law: Shoreline Management Act)

Protect Water Quality by Reviewing and Conditioning Projects

The agency issues water quality certifications and Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determinations for water-related construction projects. Staff provide early review on projects whenever possible (e.g., through State Environmental Policy Act review and pre-application meetings) and provide project guidance and technical assistance through phone calls, emails, site visits, and workshops. Projects are approved, denied, or conditioned to protect water quality, sediment quality, and fish and shellfish habitat. This activity allows the state to actively participate in federal permitting activities to ensure that state interests are adequately represented and considered. (Authorizing law: state Water Pollution Control Act)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Protect, Restore, and Manage Wetlands

The agency has the lead responsibility in implementing the state Water Pollution Control Act which requires the protection of wetlands. It provides technical assistance to local governments, helping them implement requirements in the Shoreline Management and Growth Management acts. Staff also provide technical assistance to non-government entities on wetlands conservation and stewardship programs. The agency provides leadership on wetlands issues, coordinating statewide policy issues and developing new approaches for managing and restoring wetlands. Properly functioning wetlands protect water quality, reduce flooding, provide aquifer recharge for drinking water and other uses, and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife. (Authorizing laws: Shoreline Management Act and Water Pollution Control Act)

Provide Technical and Financial Assistance for Local Watershed Planning

In 1998, the Watershed Planning Act established a framework for state, local, and tribal governments to collaboratively create watershed plans that address water needs, reduce water pollution, and protect fish habitat. As the first watershed plans come to completion, emphasis shifts to implementation of the water management strategies contained in the plans. Ecology supports watershed planning and implementation by providing staff support, technical and financial assistance to local groups, and by adopting the county-approved plans into rules. Ecology also will implement strategies for water resource management, as agreed to in the locally-developed watershed plans. (Authorizing law: Watershed Planning Act)

Provide Technical and Financial Assistance to Local Governments to Reduce Flood Hazards

The agency administers the Flood Control Assistance Account Program, providing grants and technical assistance to local governments for flood damage reduction projects and comprehensive flood hazard management planning. Staff review and approve local Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plans and inspect construction of flood damage reduction projects. Ecology is also the state's coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and receives an annual Community Assistance Program grant to provide technical assistance and support to 286 communities enrolled in the NFIP. In this role, staff make regularly scheduled technical assistance visits to communities, assess local regulatory programs for compliance with state and federal requirements, and provide workshops and other outreach on flood hazard recognition and reduction. Proper flood control planning and projects protect both private and public property, as well as natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat. (Authorizing laws: Flood Plain Management Act and RCW 86.26)

Provide Technical Assistance on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review

SEPA was adopted in 1971 to ensure that state and local decision makers consider the environmental impacts of their actions. The SEPA law provides an opportunity for local citizen involvement in the environmental review process and provides developers an opportunity to identify mitigation opportunities that facilitate overall project approval and minimize development costs. Ecology provides training and assistance to local governments and the public, and manages the SEPA register. (Authorizing law: state Environmental Policy Act)

Provide Technical Training, Education, and Research through Padilla Bay Estuarine Reserve

The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 25 national reserves established to protect estuaries for research and education. The Padilla Bay Reserve in Skagit County conducts a broad array of public education programs, technical and professional training, coastal restoration, and scientific research and monitoring. The reserve, managed in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), includes over 11,000 acres of tidelands and uplands, the Breazeale Interpretive Center, a research laboratory, residential quarters, trails, and support facilities. The reserve also provides funding and technical support to local Marine Resource Committees as part of the Northwest Straits Initiative, and administers the Northwest Straits Marine Commission as established by Senator Murray in 1998. (Authorizing law: Coastal Zone Management Act)

Provide Water Quality Financial Assistance

The agency provides grants, low-interest loans, and technical assistance to local governments, state agencies, and tribes to enable them to build, upgrade, repair, or replace facilities to improve and protect water quality. This includes meeting the state's obligation to manage the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund in perpetuity. The agency also funds nonpoint-source control projects such as watershed planning, stormwater management, freshwater aquatic weed management, education, and agricultural best management practices. Grants are targeted to nonpoint-source problems and communities where needed wastewater facilities projects would be a financial hardship for taxpayers. Local governments use loans for both point and nonpoint-source water pollution prevention and correction projects. The

agency coordinates grant and loan assistance with other state and federal funding agencies. (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Water Act, state Water Pollution Control Act, state Water Pollution Control Facilities Financing Act, state Freshwater Aquatic Weeds Account, and state Water Pollution Control Facilities-Federal Capitalization Grants)

Provide Water Resources Data and Information

The collection, management, and sharing of data and information is critical to modern water management. It is essential to local watershed groups, conservancy boards, businesses, local governments, nonprofit groups, the Legislature, other agencies, and the media. It supports daily agency operations, including making water allocation decisions; setting and achieving stream flows; identifying the location and characteristics of wells, dams, and water diversions; supporting compliance actions; metering; tracking progress; communicating with constituents; and serving other water resource functions. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.54.030)

Reduce Air Pollution from Industrial and Commercial Sources

The agency issues permits to new and existing industrial and commercial facilities that emit significant levels of air pollution. Permit programs are mandated either by federal or state clean air laws and are designed to be self-supporting through fees. The agency provides technical assistance, permit application and processing guidance, interpretation of rules, pre-application assistance, and permit review. Permits are conditioned and approved to ensure all federal and state laws are met, and that air quality, the environment, and public health are protected. The agency develops and modifies industrial source regulations to incorporate federal and state law changes, simplify and streamline permit requirements, and ensure public health protection. The agency conducts compliance inspections, resolves complaints, and develops technical and policy direction on emerging industrial permit issues. (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Air Act RCW 70.94 and Washington Clean Air Act)

Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Motor Vehicle Emissions

Cars, trucks, construction equipment, locomotives, and marine vessels are responsible for over 60 percent of Washington's air pollution. These emissions adversely affect public health, substantially increase health care costs, and increase cancer and mortality rates. Without significant emission reductions, the agency cannot ensure future attainment of federal air quality standards, avoid multi-million dollar control costs to businesses and citizens, nor reduce or prevent harmful health effects. To protect public health and the environment from motor vehicle pollution, the agency implements a vehicle emissions check program of nearly 2 million cars and trucks; promotes transportation alternatives and cleaner motor vehicles and fuels through voluntary, regulatory and incentive programs; and retrofits school buses with better emission controls. (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Air Act, Motor Vehicle Emissions Control Act, and Washington Clean Air Act)

Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Smoke and Dust

Nagging regional smoke and dust pollution plagues many areas, primarily in central and eastern Washington, and affects public health and quality of life. To address these continuing problems, the agency issues conditioned permits for agricultural, land clearing, fire training, and other outdoor burning, where required by law. It also produces daily burn forecasts; responds to and resolves complaints related to smoke and dust; provides technical assistance to manage and prevent fugitive dust and outdoor burning impacts; designs and delivers woodstove education programs; and through technical assistance, research, and demonstration projects, fosters development and use of practical alternatives to burning and improved dust mitigation. The agency's goal by 2010 is to achieve air quality levels in eastern and central Washington that experts agree is sufficient to protect human health. (Authorizing laws: RCW 70.94 Washington Clean Air Act)

Reduce Nonpoint-Source Water Pollution

Nonpoint-source pollution (polluted runoff) is the leading cause of water pollution and poses a major health and economic threat. Types of nonpoint pollution include fecal coliform bacteria, elevated water temperature, pesticides, sediments, and nutrients. Sources of pollution include agriculture, forestry, urban and rural runoff, recreation, hydro modification, and loss of aquatic ecosystems. The agency addresses these problems through raising awareness, encouraging community action, providing funding, and supporting local decision makers. The agency also coordinates with other stakeholders through the Washington State Nonpoint Workgroup, the Forest Practices Technical Assistance group, and the Agricultural Technical Assistance group. (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Water Act, state Water Pollution Control Act)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in the Environment

Persistent, bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs) are a particular group of chemicals that can significantly affect the health of humans, fish, and wildlife. The agency developed, and the Legislature funded in the 2001-03 Biennium, implementation of a long-term strategy designed to reduce PBTs in Washington's environment over the coming years. This strategy will coordinate agency-wide efforts, engage other key organizations and interest groups, and provide for public education and information on reducing PBTs in the environment. (Authorizing laws: Washington Clean Air Act, Water Pollution Control Act, Pollution Disclosure Act, Hazardous Waste Management Act, Pollution Prevention Planning Act, Solid Waste Management Act, Model Toxics Control Act, and Worker and Community Right-to-Know Act)

Reduce Risk from Toxic Air Pollutants

No ambient standards, and few emission limits, have been established for the hundreds of toxic chemicals (totaling millions of pounds) emitted into the air annually in Washington. Emerging ambient assessments and toxics risk models indicate that the level and extent of airborne toxics pose significant health and environmental risks, including cancer, other serious health effects, and death. The agency has identified 11 high-risk toxic air pollutants that are prevalent in Washington. To significantly reduce potential risk to the public, the agency will complete a health assessment of agricultural burning smoke; complete a health effects analysis of diesel soot; collect and prepare annual air toxics emission inventories; operate air toxics monitoring sites; and limit toxic emissions through permit conditions for commercial facilities, combustion processes, and outdoor burning. (Authorizing laws: federal Clean Air Act, RCW 70.94, and Washington Clean Air Act)

Reduce the Generation of Hazardous Waste through Technical Assistance

The state Hazardous Waste Reduction Act calls for the reduction of hazardous substances/waste generation, and requires certain businesses to prepare plans for voluntary reduction. Staff provide assistance through innovative programs for source and waste generation reduction, including more than 250 technical assistance visits. In addition, the program focuses on improvements in industries that have the highest rate of waste generation and non-compliance to help them achieve energy savings, water conservation, and reduced hazardous waste production. Reducing the initial generation of hazardous waste minimizes disposal costs, reduces the need for clean-up, minimizes public exposure, and saves money. (Authorizing laws: state Solid Waste Act (Waste Reduction and Recycling)-RCW 70.95C, Hazardous Waste Fees-RCW 70.95E, Hazardous Waste Fee Regulations-WAC 173-305, Pollution Prevention Plans-WAC 173-307)

Regulate Well Construction

The agency protects consumers, well drillers, and the environment by licensing and regulating well drillers, investigating complaints, approving variances from construction standards, and providing continuing education to well drillers. The work is accomplished in partnership with delegated counties. It delivers technical assistance to homeowners, well drillers, tribes, and local governments. (Authorizing law: RCW 18.104)

Respond to and Clean Up Oil and Hazardous Material Spills

The agency is responsible for responding to and overseeing the cleanup of oil spills, hazardous material incidents, and methamphetamine drug labs. These activities include 24-hour statewide response capability (round-the-clock response from four regional offices to oil spills and hazardous material incidents that pose a risk to public health and the environment); coordination with local, state, and federal law enforcement for methamphetamine drug lab cleanup; and compliance and enforcement actions for violations related to oil and hazardous material spills. (Authorizing laws: RCW 90.56, 90.48, 70.105, and 70.105D)

Restore Environmental Damage Caused by Oil Spills

When an oil spill causes significant damage to publicly-owned natural resources, the agency coordinates with other organizations to complete an assessment of the monetary value of the damages. Once the assessment is complete, the agency seeks fair compensation from the responsible parties. The agency works with other organizations to ensure that the money collected is used for projects to restore the injured natural resources. (Authorizing laws: RCW 90.56 and 90.48)

Restore Watersheds by Supporting Community-Based Projects with the Washington Conservation Corps

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) was established in 1983 to conserve, rehabilitate, and enhance the state's natural and environmental resources, while providing educational opportunities and meaningful work experiences for young adults (ages 18-25). The WCC creates partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, private entities, and nonprofit groups to complete a variety of conservation-related projects. These include stream and riparian restoration, wetlands restoration and enhancement, soil stabilization, and other forest restoration activities, fencing, and trail work. The WCC also provides emergency response and hazard mitigation services to local communities. (Authorizing law: Washington Conservation Corps-RCW 43.220)

Services to Site Owners that Volunteer to Clean Up their Contaminated Sites

The agency provides services to site owners or operators who initiate clean-up of their contaminated sites. Voluntary clean-ups can be conducted in a variety of ways: completely independent of the agency; independent with some agency assistance or review; or with agency oversight under a signed legal agreement (an agreed order or consent decree). They may be done through consultations, prepayment agreements, prospective purchaser agreements, and brownfields redevelopment. The voluntary clean-up program minimizes the need for public funding used for such clean-up and promotes local economic development through new industries and other beneficial uses of cleaned properties. (Authorizing laws: Model Toxics Control Act-RCW 70.105D, Water Pollution Control Act-RCW 90.48, Puget Sound Water Quality Protection-RCW 90.71)

Streamline Environmental Permit Review for Major Transportation Projects and Large Complex Projects

To address traffic congestion and allow businesses to efficiently transport products in Washington, the Legislature approved significant spending on transportation projects. The agency is entering into agreements with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to properly fund and coordinate permit review of these important projects. Through these agreements, Ecology will permit and mitigate transportation projects through multi-agency transportation permitting teams; multi-agency programmatic approvals; watershed-based mitigation alternatives; and assignment of dedicated organizational infrastructure at Ecology. This activity is fully funded by several interagency agreements with DOT. (Authorizing law: Permit Efficiency and Accountability Act)

The Office of Regulatory Assistance provides information and contacts for local, state, and federal permits. It also coordinates permit applications for larger, more complex projects. In addition to the resources noted here, this activity also is funded by an interagency agreement with the Office of Financial Management, and by funds from Ecology's Administration program. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.03.265 and 43.21A.690)

Support Local Watershed Management of Water Resources

This activity involves work with other agencies, local watershed planning groups, and tribes to address water quantity issues under the Watershed Management Act. It includes providing technical support and studies for local watershed planning groups to develop and adopt local plans that can serve as the basis for sound water resources management. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.82)

Support Water Use Efficiency

The agency provides agricultural, commercial/industrial, and nonprofit water users with services that deliver water savings. These include information, planning, and technical, engineering, and financial assistance. Support also is provided for water re-use projects and to the Department of Health for municipal water conservation. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.54.020(7))

Compensation Cost Adjustment

This item reflects proposed compensation and benefit cost adjustments that were not allocated to individual agency activities. The agency will assign these costs to the proper activities after the budget is enacted.